

Solano County Sheriff/Coroner's Office
Facility Inspection and Tour
2002-2003 Grand Jury Report

I. Reason for Investigation

In accordance with California State Penal Code §919 (b) the Grand Jury is required to inspect all County detention facilities. In addition, the Grand Jury elected to tour the Coroner's facility.

II. Procedure

The Grand Jury:

- Met with Solano County Sheriff and senior staff
- Reviewed documents provided by staff
- Toured and inspected Sheriff's Office and detention facilities
- Toured Coroner's facility
- Observed an autopsy

III. Background

1. The Solano County Jail (Fairfield and Claybank) and the Coroner's Office are under the control of the Sheriff. All facilities were inspected and found to be clean. The Grand Jury met with the Sheriff and senior staff and received a video presentation and documentation outlining the department's day-to-day activities, budget, projections and staff vacancies.

2. The Fairfield facility has an authorized capacity of 735 beds. The average inmate population often exceeds the authorized capacity of the jail. Inmates are housed in common areas on the floor when this happens. One of the contributing factors to the overcrowding problem is that inmates are often too violent to be housed together. The Sheriff projects the overcrowding problem will grow.

IV. Finding and Recommendation

Each finding is referenced to the background paragraph number

Finding #1 - The Fairfield facility often exceeds its inmate capacity and houses inmates on the floor. (2)

Recommendation #1 - The Sheriff develop a plan to deal with the overcrowding and present it to the Board of Supervisors in a timely manner.

Affected Agencies

- Solano County Sheriff/Coroner
- Solano County Board of Supervisors